

AGENDA

CANTON BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2004

GARDEN CENTER BUILDING

4:00 PM

Reading of the minutes of the September 1, 2004 regular meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Councilmember Tom West regarding possible Nimisilla Park Redevelopment
2. Plain Township request to construct a basketball court in Oak Park
3. Service Director's request for the Park Commission to cut and maintain the grass areas at the train station

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Use requests:
 - A. Plain Local Baseball and Softball requesting to use Covered Bridge and Oak Park ball fields for the 2005 season
 - B. American Red Cross requesting to use Shelter 5 and the soccer field on Sunday, June 12, 2005 to hold their annual "Duck Race"
2. Downtown Ford regarding access to Washington Blvd.
3. Received thank you note from Bev Jordan of Stark Social Workers Network

OTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

CANTON PARK COMMISSION

BOARD MINUTES

OCTOBER, 2004

The Canton Board of Park Commissioners met in regular session on Wednesday, October 6, 2004, at the Garden Center Building.

Present were: Mr. Andy Black, President; Mr. Tom Ascani, Vice President; Mr. Steve Lamiell, Member; and Mr. Douglas V. Perry, Director/Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m.

A motion was then made by A. Black to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2004, regular meeting as written. A second was made by S. Lamiell, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Councilmember Tom West regarding possible Nimisilla Park Redevelopment - Councilmember West showed the Board a plan for the redevelopment of Nimisilla Park that he had proposed. He talked about possible funding sources.

The Board expressed interest in his efforts.

Some general ideas regarding parking, concessions, and Park System buildings were discussed.

Mr. West explained that he felt a vision had to be presented first in order to gain interest. He stated he felt there was a lot of interest for this effort. He also stated he wanted to form different committees to take on the effort.

Mr. West then left the meeting.

2. Plain Township request to construct a basketball court in Oak Park - Mr. Mark Cozy, Plain Township Administrator, came to the Board with a request for the township to have built in Oak Park a half-court basketball facility.

The Board expressed many concerns and told Mr. Cozy of their experience and problems with courts such as this in other parts of the City.

They told him that although the court was wanted for younger kids in the neighborhood, it would attract older players from outside the neighborhood. These players would park on the streets, keep the neighborhood kids off the court, litter and thus create problems for Plain Township. In addition, they would then create problems for the Park Commission as the court would be on city park property. The Board did not feel this was a good idea.

Mr. Black asked Mr. Cozy how many people of the neighborhood had requested this court. Mr. Cozy indicated that someone had approached the trustees.

A motion was then made by a. Black to disapprove the request. A second was made by S. Lamiell, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Black told Mr. Cozy that he would have liked to have seen more input from the neighborhood with regard to this issue. In addition, that if further information developed to feel free to come back to the Board.

3. Service Director's request for the Park Commission to cut and maintain the grass areas at the train station - There was no new information received with regard to this issue. It remained tabled.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Use requests:

- A. Plain Local Baseball and Softball requesting to use Covered Bridge and Oak Park ball fields for the 2005 season
- B. American Red Cross requesting to use Shelter 5 and the soccer field on Sunday, June 12, 2005 to hold their annual "Duck Race"

The Board reviewed the above two requests. A motion was then made by A. Black to approve them both with an insurance requirement on use B. A second was made by S. Lamiell, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

2. Downtown Ford regarding access to Washington Blvd. - Mr. Joe Concatto, City Chief of Staff, and Mr. Brad Black of Downtown Ford were at the meeting to discuss this request.

Mr. Concatto explained the upcoming road closings that would have a great effect on all the businesses in the same area. He stated that once started Tuscarawas Street could be closed between 18 and 24 months. He also explained that the Mayor supported the request.

Mr. Black then explained to the Board what he was going to do with fencing and the old gate from the bus garage to Washington Blvd. and that he had a second request to make to the Board.

Mr. Black stated that he wanted to close the large 40 foot gate that had been used by the bus garage, and he would remove and reseed the connecting ramp to Washington Blvd. He then would have a new 18 foot gate and ramp constructed a little to the south of the old gate.

What access they are asking for there is just for trash collection, which happens late at night, and for police or fire emergency purposes.

He also asked to have three (3) park trees removed from the front area of the new building to improve visibility for the building. He stated he would pay for that to happen and would also agree to take care of the landscape area in the park next to his building.

The Board expressed concern with regard to the tree removal. It was suggested that Downtown Ford also replace the trees with three new trees in the park. Mr. Black agreed to that provision.

A motion was then made by A. Black to allow Downtown Ford to make the proposed changes to the old ramp and have constructed a new ramp area off of Washington Blvd. only for the purposes of access to their property for trash collection and police and fire emergency. In addition to allow Downtown Ford to cause to have removed three trees from park property at their expense as long as they replace the trees with new trees in the park. In addition to accept Downtown Ford's offer to maintain the landscaped area in the park next to their building along Tuscarawas Street.

A second to the motion was provided by S. Lamiell, and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The issue of the road being closed was again brought up at this point. Mr. Brad Black had asked about a temporary increase of access from the Park road if it should become necessary during the reconstruction of Tuscarawas Street. The Board told Mr. Black that they would be willing to work with him on that issue should the need arise.

3. Received thank you note from Bev Jordan of Stark Social Workers Network

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Sergeant Thristino of the Park Police asked to address the Board.

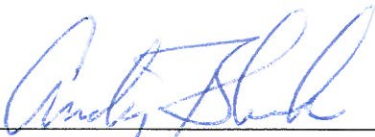
He stated he wanted to make sure the Board understood he had not filed a lawsuit against them as stated in the paper. He wanted them to know that the action filed was just asking for an administrative review by the court of the facts and law with regard to the decision to disarm the Park Police again.

Mr. Black thanked Sergeant Thristino for his remarks and stated that if this action would lead to some final answers to the different opinions they had received regarding these issues that it would be a good thing.

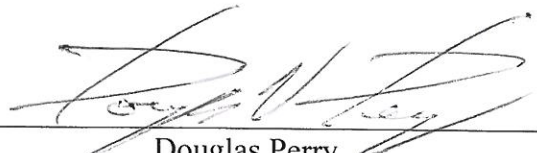
2. The Director told the Board that due to some recent requests to use our picnic tables, the Board may want to consider setting a policy with regard to their use and our moving of them for different kinds of activities.

The Director was instructed to prepare some proposals for the Board's review.

Being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.



Andy Black
President



Douglas Perry
Director/Secretary